

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Mason/Thurston County DUI Emphasis Nabs 10 Impaired Drivers**

**Mason/Thurston Counties** – Ten impaired drivers were arrested on Friday night, as a result of a coordinated impaired driving emphasis between Washington State Patrol troopers and Mason County Sheriff's deputies.

The emphasis, which focused on state route 101, consisted of over 20 troopers from Kitsap, Mason and Thurston counties and at least 4 deputies with the Mason County Sheriff's Office.

With the help of a Washington State Patrol aircraft, 230 violators were contacted throughout the course of the evening, with 42 total citations issued. According to Washington State Patrol pilot Scott Sborov, "There were so many drivers being stopped, it looked like a Christmas tree from the air".

The Washington State Patrol MIDU (Mobile Impaired Driving Unit) was on hand, making it possible for troopers to bring impaired drivers in for quicker processing. The MIDU is equipped with three BAC Compact Data Masters, a dark room for DRE Evaluations, three computer work stations, and two prisoner holding cells. The MIDU is a significant time saving tool for officers when processing DUI suspects. A routine DUI arrest takes 60-90 minutes to process. Officers transport DUI suspects to the MIDU and personnel there take over the DUI investigation, allowing the officer to get back on patrol.

"The real success of the emphasis is the fact that there was not one single vehicle collision in Mason County on Friday night", said Lieutenant Steve Smeland.

The emphasis results are as follows:

- 10 DUI arrests
- 7 Speeding Infractions
- 1 Aggressive Driving Infraction
- 8 DWLS Citations
- 4 No Insurance
- 1 Non-traffic alcohol related offense
- 6 Drug Arrests
- 2 Misdemeanor Warrant Arrests
- 3 Other Criminal Arrests

Lieutenant Smeland would like to give special thanks to General Manager Dan Tighe and the employees at Sundance Auto & RV Center, located on SR 101 at Lynch Rd, for their generous support of traffic safety in the local community. Troopers were able to station the MIDU in the Sundance parking lot.

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